

THE SHOWDOWN OF THE CENTURY!



MARVEL
COMICS

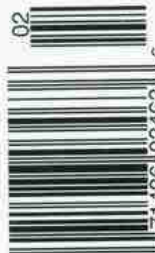
VERSUS



#3
APR 86



MARZ • JURGENS • CASTELLINI • RUBINSTEIN • NEARY



02
0 71486 03463 6
\$3.95 US \$5.35 CAN © 03463

Dear
diary,

Been a while, huh?
Sorry I haven't
written. To tell you
the truth, things
have been kind
of crazy.

Well...

... to tell you the
truth, things have
been way crazy.
Like the whole
universe is coming
to an end crazy.





Hmm, where to start?

Okay, this is what I know. There's our universe, right? And then there's this other one, kind of like ours, but different. Yeah, major revelation, right?

The reason I know this now is because the two universes started merging, people and buildings and everything crossing from one to the other.

Naturally, everybody freaks...

...especially the heroes, 'cause they're trying to keep total chaos from breaking out.

The thing is, nobody can figure out what's going on, not even big-deal brains like Mr. Frost or Professor Xavier.

I mean, everybody wants to know why it's happening.

Maybe we shouldn't even ask. I'm still not sure I understand what I do know, but here goes.

There are these two, um, gods or entities or whatever, you want to call them... one in each universe. Brothers, I guess. They're, like, the embodiment of everything in their universe.

A little tough to grasp, I know. Anyway, they both forgot the other one existed. But they noticed each other because of a few cosmic sort of events.



Now they've decided to find out whose universe is better, so they picked champions—including your favorite pyrokinetic mutant mall rat here—to settle it.

This is the deal: once we're summoned, we have to fight somebody from the other universe until one of us goes down for the count.

And it's not like we have a choice, because the losing universe...

Well, here's the scary part... when it's all over, only one universe is going to survive!

Like I need that kind of pressure!



It's already started. Thor defeated this guy called Captain Marvel...

...but Namor lost to Aquaman...

...and Quicksilver couldn't outrun the Flash. So right now we're losing two-to-one.



It's weird - creepy weird, I mean - how people are reacting, treating this like it's the Super Bowl or something.

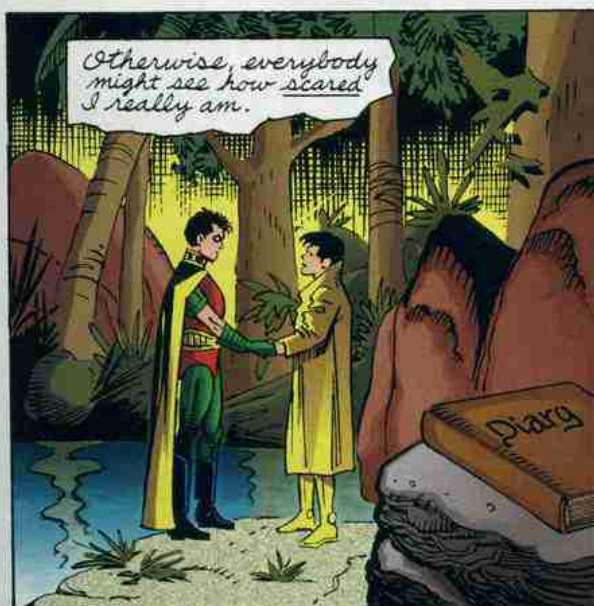


Maybe it's easier to do that than really think about the consequences. Sort of whistling in the dark.

But you want to know the worst thing? I finally find the right guy... I mean Mr. Right...

...and I've gotta fight him for the fate of two universes. Does that stink or what?







I ALMOST
FEEL LIKE
THIS ISN'T
FAIR. YOU
DON'T HAVE ANY
POWERS.

WHO SAYS
I NEED 'EM?



COME
ON,
WHERE'D
YOU GO?

I KNOW
I CAN WIN THIS
THING...



...IF I
CAN JUST
FIND HIM.



THERE
YOU ARE!





HEY!

THAT
WAS YOUR
CAPE! YOU
TRICKED
ME!

I HAD
A HECK OF A
TEACHER.

BUT...

...BUT
I DIDN'T
EVEN...

YOU OKAY?
NOT TOO TIGHT,
IS IT?

NO, IT'S JUST... I LOST.
YOU DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TO
LAND A PUNCH. THAT'S SO
LAME.

GOD, NO!
I WAS NEVER
PLANNING TO
HIT YOU.

YOU
WEREN'T?
THAT'S...
SWEET.

UM, YOU ARE
PLANNING ON UN-
TYING ME THOUGH,
RIGHT,
HANDSOME?

SINCE YOU
PUT IT THAT
WAY...

...OH,
I CAN'T
BELIEVE
IT!



DEEP SPACE.

MAN, I DON'T WANT TO BE DOING THIS.



NOR IS IT TO MY LIKING, GREEN LANTERN...

...BUT THIS COMBAT BETWEEN US IS NECESSARY.



IN THE PAST, YOU AND I HAVE PRESERVED OUR TWO UNIVERSES BY ACTING TOGETHER.

NOW WE ATTEMPT TO SAVE AT LEAST ONE BY BATTLING EACH OTHER.

UFF!



THE COSMIC BEINGS WHO COMMAND US ARE THE MOST POWERFUL ENTITIES I'VE EVER ENCOUNTERED.

EVEN MY FORMER MASTER GALACTUS PALES BEFORE THEM!

I'M NOT SAYING WE HAVE A CHOICE, SURFER...



...I'M
JUST SAYING
I DON'T LIKE
IT.

BUT I'LL
DO EVERY-
THING I CAN
TO WIN.

AS
MUST
I.

THE
VICTORY
IS
MINE...

...YET
NEVER
HAVE I MORE
REGRETTED
AN
OPPONENT'S
DEFEAT.





--HMF?!

STRONG
LITTLE THING,
AREN'T
YOU?

I'M AN
ASSASSIN. I
KILL MY OPPONENTS
GLADLY.

YEAH, WELL,
DON'T GO TO ANY
EXTRA TROUBLE ON
MY ACCOUNT.

BUT OUR
COMBAT WAS NOT
OF MY CHOOSING. I
WON'T SLAY YOU
MERELY TO APPEASE
THE BEINGS WHO
FORCE THIS
BATTLE...

...BUT
I WILL
WIN.







THE ALLEY.

WAIT.

WAIT A MINUTE.
ALL THIS STUFF YOU'RE
TELLING ME? I MEAN...

...COME
ON.



TWO WHOLE
UNIVERSES EMBODIED
IN THESE COSMIC... BROTHERS,
OR WHATEVER YOU WANNA
CALL THEM.

AND I'M SUPPOSED
TO BE SOME KIND OF
SHARD FROM THE TWO
OF THEM? THAT'S WHY
I'VE BEEN A WANDERER
ALL MY LIFE?

NO!

I DON'T
BELIEVE
IT. I
CAN'T.

I'M
NOTHING
SPECIAL,
AND I DON'T
WANT TO
BE.



YOU'RE
JUST SOME
CRAZY
HOMELESS
GUY, THAT'S
ALL.

AM
I?



AND THAT'S JUST
A CARDBOARD
BOX? IT'S ALL
TRUE...

...AND IN
YOUR HEART,
YOU KNOW IT.
YOU FEEL IT.

THIS PLACE
IS THE CRUX OF
EVERYTHING,
AND YOU ARE THE
KEY. IF ANY-
THING IS TO BE
PRESERVED...



...YOU MUST
BE THE ONE TO DO
IT, AXEL ASHER!
THE ANSWER LIES
WITHIN YOU!

HEY!
WHAT'RE
YOU...?



...WHOA.

WHAT'D YOU DO TO ME?!

UNLEASHED
WHAT'S INSIDE OF YOU.
EACH OF US CHOOSES THE
GUISE BEST SUITED TO
WHO WE ARE. THIS IS
MINE; THAT'S YOURS.

I TOLD YOU
I'M A SHARD
OF THE BROTHERS,
JUST LIKE YOU.
I'VE BEEN THE
KEEPER OF THE
GATEWAY
BETWEEN THE TWO
UNIVERSES.

YOU SEE
IT AS A BOX
BECAUSE THAT'S
WHAT I WANT IT
TO BE. IT MIGHT
BE SOMETHING
DIFFERENT
FOR YOU...

...BECAUSE
YOU'RE NEXT
IN THE LONG
SUCCESSION OF
KEEPERS. MY
TIME IS ALMOST
UP. YOU HAVE
TO TAKE UP THE
MANTLE...

...YOU
HAVE TO
BECOME THE
ACCESS.

EVERY-
THING'S BEEN
LEADING TO THIS
MOMENT. YOUR
WATCH IS MORE
CRUCIAL THAN
ANY THAT HAVE
COME BEFORE.

IT
FALLS TO
YOU TO
PRESERVE
THE BALANCE
BETWEEN
THE TWO
UNIVERSES.

YEAH,
BUT...

...HOW
DO I DO
THAT?

FAR, FAR AWAY...







OUTSIDE
FAWCETT
CITY...

MERELY
GRASPING THE
HAMMER TRANSFORMED
ME. THE POWER COURSES
THROUGH ME, MORE POWER
THAN I EVER HAD AS
WONDER WOMAN...

...THE
POWER OF
A GOD.



IF I
MUST FIGHT
YOU IN THIS
GUISE...

WHO?

...THEN SO
BE IT. BUT I
WARN YOU... I,
TOO, HAVE BEEN
CALLED A GODDESS,
AND THE LIGHTNING
IS AT MY COMMAND,
AS WELL.

I AM
STORM, OF
THE X-MEN.

I WAS
TRANSPORTED
HERE. WE ARE
MEANT TO BATTLE,
YOU AND I.

I FEAR
YOU'VE NO HOPE
OF WINNING SUCH
A CONTEST WHILE
I WIELD THIS
WEAPON.

PERHAPS.
BUT I
WILL NOT
YIELD.

I COULD GAIN
AN EASY VICTORY.
BUT SUCH A
BATTLE...

...WOULD
NOT BE
FAIR.





WE FACE ONE ANOTHER AS WAS INTENDED. I MAY HAVE GIVEN UP AN ADVANTAGE...

...BUT THE VICTORY'S STILL GOING TO BE MINE.

NOT WHILE MY MUTANT ABILITIES ALLOW ME TO CONTROL THE ELEMENTS THEMSELVES. THE SKIES HEED ME!

AT MY COMMAND, THE WIND BLOWS ITSELF INTO A GALE! THE RAIN BECOMES A TORRENT!

...TO BEST AN AMAZON CHAMPION WITH THE STRENGTH OF THE GREEK GODS!

YOU'RE GOING TO NEED MORE THAN BAD WEATHER...

WHUD!

NNF!





GREENWICH VILLAGE.

NO FAIR!

ALL RIGHT, SPIDER-MAN! WHERE'D YOU GO?!

psst

SUPERBOY, UP HERE!

YOU KNOW, IF YOU'RE NOT EVEN GONNA BE ABLE TO FIND ME...

SP4!

...WE COULD BE AT THIS ALL DAY!

OH, I'LL FIND YOU, BUG-BOY!

HEY!

HOW'D YOU DO THAT?

KA-SPLOOSH!

TACTILE TELEKINESIS.

COMES IN REAL HANDY.



NEAT TRICK.
SO WHAT'S YOUR STORY, KID?

YOU SUPERMAN'S KID BROTHER? SECOND COUSIN? WHAT?

I'M A CLONE. TRY TO GRASP THE CONCEPT.



A CLONE?!

YEAH, A CLONE.

HOPE YOU DON'T HAVE A PROBLEM GETTING YOUR BUTT KICKED BY ONE.



IF THERE'S ANY KICKING AROUND HERE, JUNIOR...



...IT'S MY FOOT IN YOUR FACE!

I PACK MORE OF A WALLOP THAN YOU EXPECTED, RIGHT? COMPARATIVE STRENGTH OF A SPIDER WILL DO THAT.

UNNF!

WHAKK!



COMPARATIVE
AGILITY,
TOO.

BUT PROBABLY NOT
ENOUGH OF EITHER TO
BEAT YOU SLUGGING IT OUT
IN CLOSE QUARTERS.

SUPES?
KID?

WHERE
ARE YOU?
THIS SNEAKY
STUFF IS
SUPPOSED
TO BE MY
GAG.

uh-oh.

HE'S
BELOW--

--MMPH!!





METROPOLIS.

YOU'RE GOING
TO BE DEFEATED
AGAIN, METALLO...
...JUST LIKE
EVERY OTHER
TIME.

KL ANG!

I'M GUESSING
YOU'RE THE SUPER-
MAN THIS METAL
GEEK'S BEEN RANTING
ABOUT?

I AM.
AND YOU'RE
CALLED THE
HULK?

ACTUALLY,
I PREFER DR.
BANNER. OR
BRUCE.

I'LL
DESTROY BOTH
OF YOU! I'LL--

METROPOLIS IS
MY CITY, BRUCE,
BUT THANKS FOR
THE HELP...

...PROTECTING
IT?

HERE WE GO
AGAIN.



THE GRAND CANYON.

LOOKS LIKE WE'VE BEEN "SUMMONED." IT'S SHOWTIME.

WE MUST'VE BEEN SENT HERE SO NO INNOCENTS WOULD BE ENDANGER--



--DHH!!--

LET'S JUST GET DOWN TO IT.



KA-TOOM!



WITH A PUNCH LIKE THAT, IT'S PRETTY OBVIOUS A DOSE OF HEAT VISION ISN'T GOING TO PROVE FATAL...

AAGH!



...BUT I DOUBT EVEN YOU CAN WITHSTAND IT COMPLETELY.





I'D PREFER TO CONSIDER YOU A FRIEND, HULK, BUT WITH EVERYTHING THAT'S AT STAKE, I DON'T THINK I CAN.

FOR ME TO SAVE MY WORLD, MY UNIVERSE, AND MOST OF ALL THE WOMAN I LOVE...

...I HAVE TO PUT YOU DOWN!

POW!

HE TOOK EVERYTHING I HAD, AND ALMOST STOOD UP TO IT.

NOTHING LEFT NOW...

...EXCEPT THE WAITING.

MANHATTAN.

SPLSSH!

BATMAN
MELTS INTO THE
SHADOWS SO
EASILY...

...LIKE
HE'S A PART
OF THEM. I CAN'T
FIGHT WHAT I
CAN'T...

...FIND.

HNNF!

CHUDO!





shff?

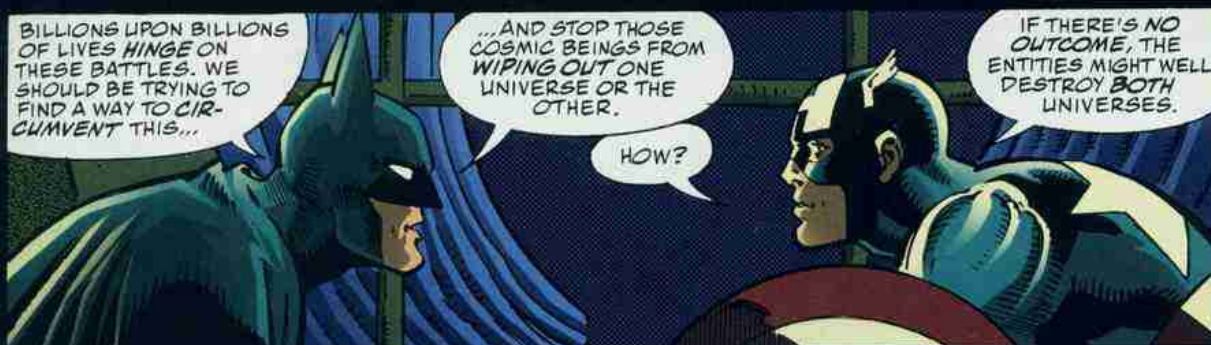
shff?

shff?

WE'VE BEEN AT IT FOR HOURS. WE COULD BATTLE FOR DAYS...

...AND NOT HAVE A WINNER UNTIL ONE OF US DROPS FROM EXHAUSTION. WE SHOULD BE LOOKING FOR SOME OTHER OPTION.

WE WEREN'T GIVEN A CHOICE. WE HAVE TO FIGHT UNTIL SOMEONE GOES DOWN.

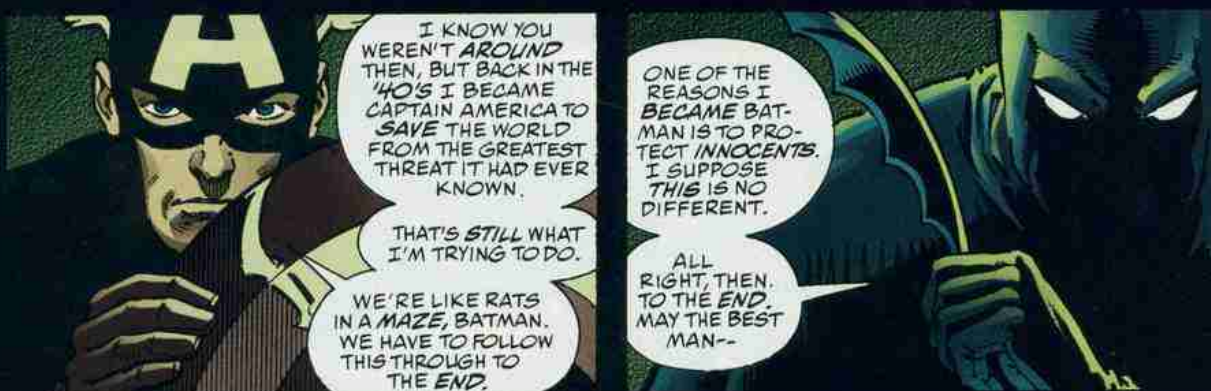


BILLIONS UPON BILLIONS OF LIVES HINGE ON THESE BATTLES. WE SHOULD BE TRYING TO FIND A WAY TO CIRCUMVENT THIS...

...AND STOP THOSE COSMIC BEINGS FROM WIPING OUT ONE UNIVERSE OR THE OTHER.

HOW?

IF THERE'S NO OUTCOME, THE ENTITIES MIGHT WELL DESTROY BOTH UNIVERSES.



I KNOW YOU WEREN'T AROUND THEN, BUT BACK IN THE '40'S I BECAME CAPTAIN AMERICA TO SAVE THE WORLD FROM THE GREATEST THREAT IT HAD EVER KNOWN.

THAT'S STILL WHAT I'M TRYING TO DO.

WE'RE LIKE RATS IN A MAZE, BATMAN. WE HAVE TO FOLLOW THIS THROUGH TO THE END.

ONE OF THE REASONS I BECAME BATMAN IS TO PROTECT INNOCENTS. I SUPPOSE THIS IS NO DIFFERENT.

ALL RIGHT, THEN. TO THE END. MAY THE BEST MAN--



THE SYSTEM'S BEING FLUSHED OUT!

SPOOSH!!





...WE'LL
BE OUT OF
HERE IN A
SECOND.

ARE YOU
ALL RIGHT?

SWALLOWED SOME WATER
AND TOOK A BUMP ON THE
HEAD. YOU'RE GOOD WITH
THAT... BATARANG, YOU
CALLED IT?

BUT I'M FINE...
EXCEPT FOR COMING
UP SHORT. I LOST,
AND MAYBE DOOMED
AN ENTIRE UNIVERSE.



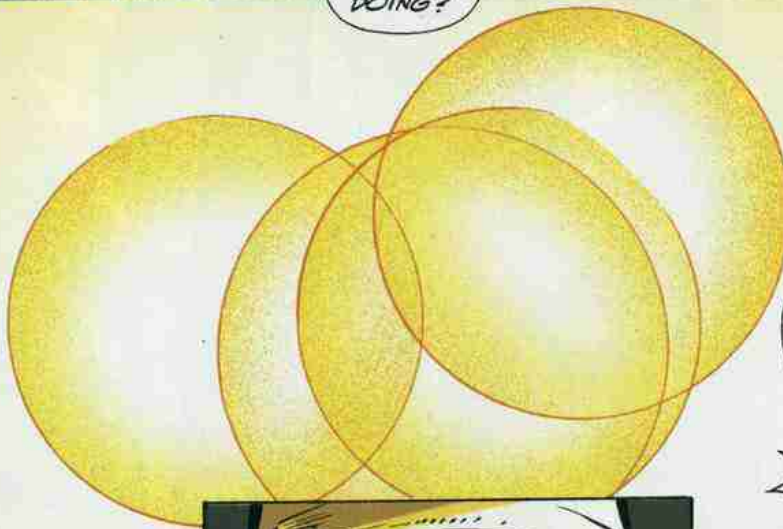
WE'RE BOTH STILL
HERE, SO THIS ISN'T
OVER YET. WHAT
NOW?

I'M NOT
SURE, I
DIDN'T
EXPECT--

THAT BOX. DO
YOU SEE THAT BOX,
IN THE ALLEY?
GLOWING?

ONE FROM
EACH
UNIVERSE!

THEY'RE
OUR CHANCE!
WE CAN STILL
SAVE EVERY-
THING!



ACCESS,
HURRY!

THERE'S NO
TIME LEFT! THE
BOX WON'T CONTAIN
IT ANYMORE! WE CAN'T
KEEP THE BROTHERS
FROM--

NO!

IT'S
HAPPENING!

"THE BATTLES
ARE OVER, AND
ONLY ONE
UNIVERSE IS
BEING SPARED..."

"...BUT NOT
THE WINNING
UNIVERSE!"

"ONE
UNIVERSE
IS BEING
ELIMINATED..."

"...BUT NOT
THE LOSING
UNIVERSE!"

"THE BROTHERS
ARE SETTling
THE CONTEST
THEIR OWN WAY..."

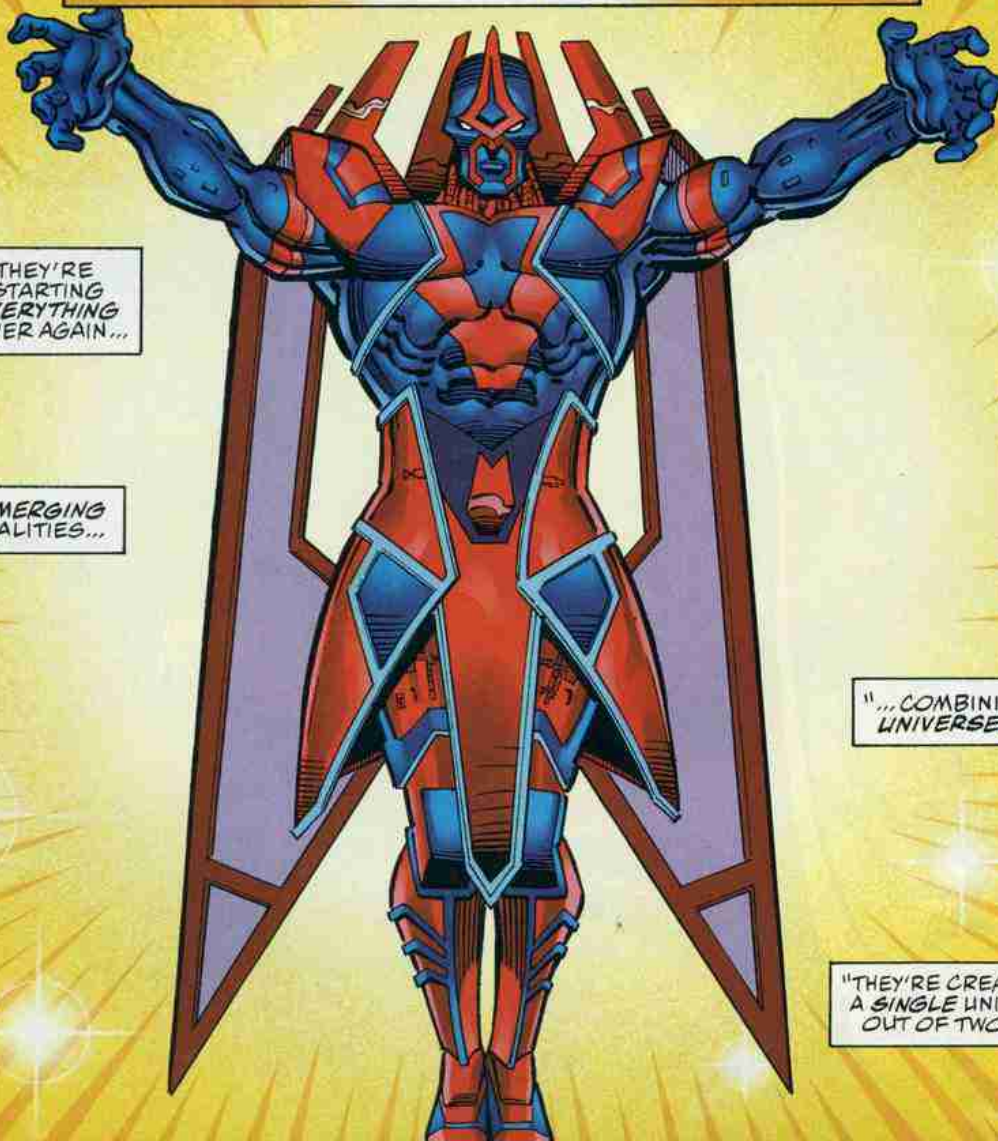
"...BY COMING TOGETHER,
FUSING ALL THAT THEY
ARE SO THEY CAN CO-
EXIST AS ONE UNIFIED
BEING."

"THEY'RE
STARTING
EVERYTHING
OVER AGAIN..."

"...MERGING
REALITIES..."

"...COMBINING
UNIVERSES!"

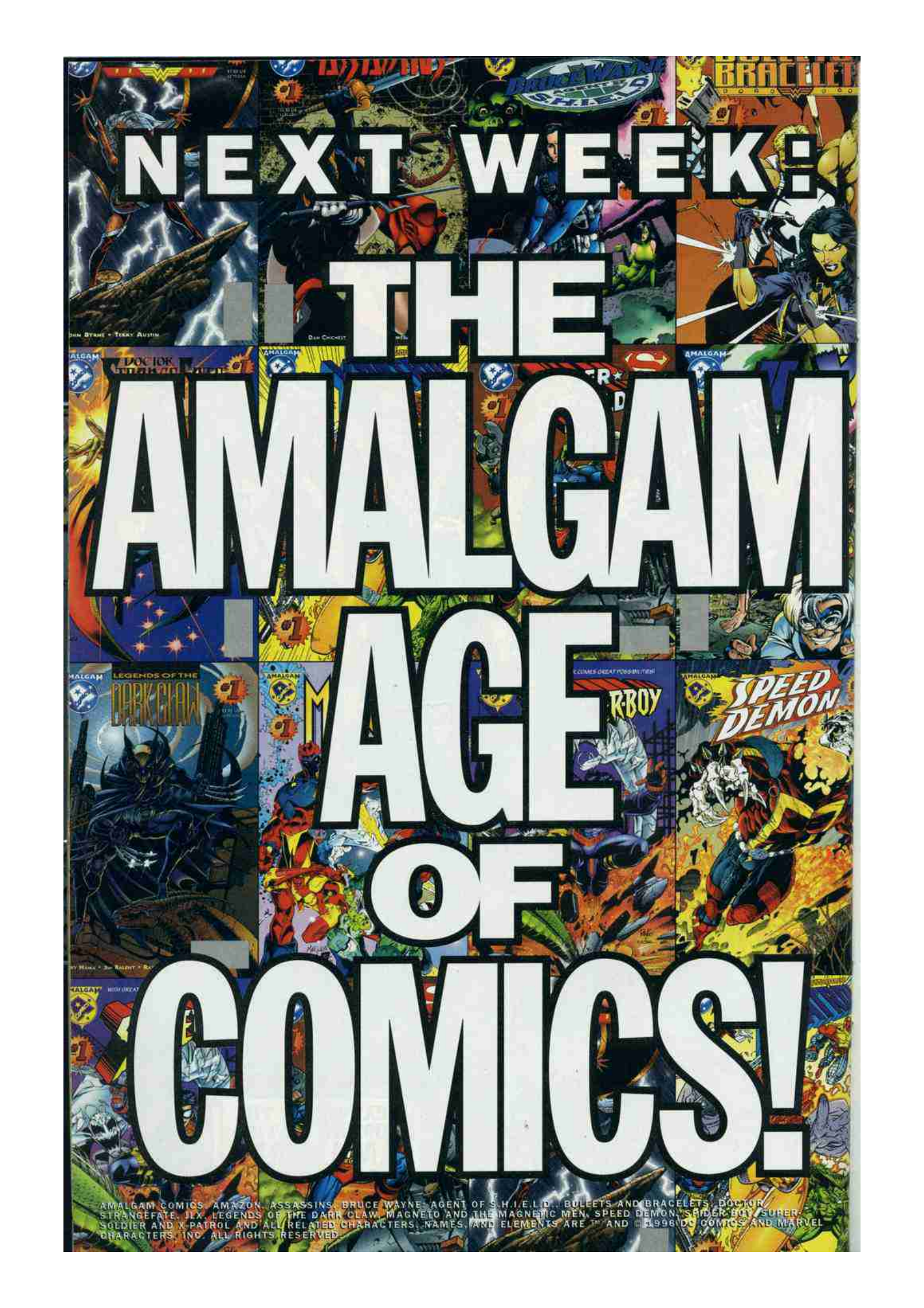
"THEY'RE CREATING
A SINGLE UNIVERSE
OUT OF TWO..."



...BUT WHAT HAVE THEY CREATED?

NEXT WEEK : THE COMING OF THE AMALGAM UNIVERSE!

**NEXT WEEK : THE
COMING OF THE
AMALGAM
UNIVERSE!**



NEXT WEEK:

**THE
AMALGAM
AGE
OF
COMICS!**

AMALGAM COMICS, AMAZON, ASSASSINS, BRUCE WAYNE, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D., BULLETS AND BRACELETS, DOCTOR STRANGEFATE, J.L.X., LEGENDS OF THE DARK CLAW, MAGNETO AND THE MAGNETIC MEN, SPEED DEMON, SLIDER, BOY, SUPER SOLDIER AND X-PATROL AND ALL RELATED CHARACTERS, NAMES, AND ELEMENTS ARE TM AND © 1998 DC COMICS AND MARVEL CHARACTERS, INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

MARVEL COMICS VERSUS DC

ROUND THREE

FOR DC COMICS:

JENETTE KAHN
president & editor-in-chief

PAUL LEVITZ
executive vice president & publisher

MIKE CARLIN
executive editor

CHRIS DUFFY
assistant editor

JOE ORLANDO
vp-creative director

TOM BALLOU
vp-advertising

BRUCE BRISTOW
vp-sales & marketing

PATRICK CALDON
vp-finance & operations

TERRI CUNNINGHAM
managing editor

CHANTAL D'AULNIS
vp-business affairs

LILLIAN LASERSON
vp & general counsel

BOB ROZAKIS
executive director-production

FOR MARVEL COMICS:

GERARD CALABRESE
president

STAN LEE
publisher

JIM SOKOLOWSKI
associate publisher

BOB HARRAS
editor-in-chief

MARK GRUENWALD
executive editor

JOE ANDREANI
assistant editor

JOHN ROMITA SR.
executive art director

VIRGINIA ROMITA
production manager

GENE DURANTE
vp-manufacturing operations

ALISON GILL
manufacturing director

LIZ BURKE
vp-controller

ROBERT LOSEY
executive vp-legal affairs